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FRANK L. HOOBS.....MANAGER

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Armament And Arbitration

In spite of the fact that naval expansion seems to be the fashion among leading civilized western nations and the military spirit runs so very high in certain quarters there seems to be less and less a disposition on the part of nations to plunge into costly and deadly wars where the modern military arms will be called into use. There is a disposition in many quarters to rather sneer at the Hague Tribunal and other organizations called for the purpose of avoiding war, but the moral lessons learned from such organizations has been shown in a very striking way in the matter of the North Sea incident when the Russian Baltic fleet fired on the defenceless British fishing trawlers. Instead of rushing into a bloody war that would have dragged one and perhaps two other nations into the conflict, Great Britain agreed to submit the matter to the decision of a special court of inquiry. In discussing this matter the Japan Daily Advertiser has some interesting views to give. It says:

"The progress of the cause of international arbitration will be signally illustrated in the well-nigh inconceivable event of the finding of the Russo-British Commission in favor of Russia. That the latter government firmly believes that there were hostile torpedo boats among the fishing fleet, and that there are many unprejudiced sharers in that belief, so far as to think there was some sort of foundation for the scare, is quite evident at the present juncture, and should it turn out that there was really occasion for aught but a senseless panic, the supreme wisdom of the British government in avoiding war, and in submitting to arbitration a question vitally involving the nation's honor, would be established beyond question. A great object lesson on the folly of war, especially when declared under the impulse of popular excitement, would be most conspicuously furnished to all governments.

"It will be remembered that at the first Hague Peace Conference a reservation was made respecting the kind of subject which should be made amenable to an arbitration court, and all differences between nations touching national honor were expressly as well as unanimously excluded. Yet here was an extreme case of this very kind submitted to such a court in the very teeth of the outcry of an incensed people. If this can be done under such pressure to the contrary, it is safe to say that hereafter there need be no exceptions whatever made to the scope of arbitration. Upon this point the Shanghai Mercury well says:

"If two of the great powers can send to arbitration such a delicate question as that regarding the conduct of the Baltic squadron, then it is difficult to see how anything can arise in the future which might not likewise be referred to an independent tribunal for adjustment. It is in just such cases that the power so to refer would be of the greatest value. It is not troubles of long standing, like our Newfoundland dispute with France, that bring about war, but exactly such occurrences as that which has lately happened.

"It is when passion is aroused as it was in England a few weeks ago that that war is near. It is when press recriminations are banded back and forth, when personal friendships are forgotten in national hate, when diplomacy takes off its velvet glove and dons the gauntlet of steel, then is the time that war is made, just when men are in the worst possible condition for the proper consideration of the rights and wrongs of the question at issue. Were mediation or reference to arbitration then to be taken as a matter of course, bad blood would have time to cool, better nature to regain the ascendant, and war might really be in a fair way to disappear. If this be the result of the recent attempt at settlement, the world will once more see the possibility of the coming of good from evil."

The War Against Consumption

In line with what was suggested in an editorial in The Star yesterday regarding the practice of spitting on the sidewalks, is the very great interest that is being manifested in all parts of the mainland regarding the treatment and control of consumption. A number of the leading magazines during the past few months have devoted considerable space to this subject. Elbert Hubbard, the chief Rycroft of East Aurora, New York, has written about it in his forcible way in the Philistine.

One of the most striking articles that has recently appeared is in McClure's Magazine. In this there are some blood-curdling examples given of the persistence of the infection of tuberculosis in houses. In fact the keynote of the article is that the infection of tuberculosis is a house infection, and that one of the most effective ways of combatting its spread is the thorough disinfection of every house in which there is a case of consumption. This plan is carried out to some extent in very many cities of the Union, and to a considerable extent in some cities. By this and other means the death rate from consumption has been materially reduced in Boston and other places where active efforts have been made.

Another most effective element in combatting the disease is the requirement that physicians shall report to the Board of Health every case of consumption coming to their knowledge. If this were done the burden of getting to the afflicted, instructions, which if followed, will enable them to save themselves from being a center of infection to their relatives and friends, and to the general public, would be greatly reduced, and the efforts of the Board of Health to prevent the spread of the disease, very greatly lightened.

There are a few facts about consumption which are admitted by all authorities, and which make warfare against it very plain, and where the conditions of the warfare can be conformed to, very effective. It is known that sunshine and pure air are very effective agents in the destruction of the bacillus of tuberculosis. In darkness and dampness, the bacillus has been known to live two years. Dwellings become infected by the presence in them of tuberculosis patients, and retain the virility of infection for a long time. So that there are many cases where a succession of deaths from consumption extending over a quarter or a half a century can be directly traced back through the succession to the original case. Thus it is extremely dangerous to move into a house in which there has been a case of consumption, unless the house has been thoroughly disinfected.

From these facts the methods of combatting the spread of consumption have been deduced much as follows: Every case of consumption, like every case of any other contagious or infectious disease, should be reported as soon as discovered, to the Board of Health. The patient should then receive instruction as to the means to be taken by himself to prevent his becoming a center of infection. Every house in which there has been a case of tuberculosis should be thoroughly disinfected, by the Board of Health. Where possible consumptive patients financially unable to provide themselves with such means as are required to prevent themselves from becoming centers of infection, should be provided for, as is done in the case of indigent patients suffering from other contagious diseases. The economic saving to the state which would accrue from the prevention of consumption, would many times pay the expense of this provision. Such means of spreading infection as spitting in the streets or on the sidewalks or in public places, should be prohibited. Every effort should be made to educate the public up to a realization of the fact that consumption is a preventable disease and very often a curable one, and to create a public sentiment on the question that would demand the necessary legislation, its enforcement, and

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the observance on the part of the public of all such matters of decorum as will aid in the cause.

Some of these measures can be put in force at once by the Board of Health, if it will do it. Others may require legislation, and still others will require the education of the public. It is probable that the Board of Health already has the power to require licensed physicians to report all cases of tuberculosis coming within their knowledge or practice. If it has, let it be done. It certainly has the power and the apparatus to disinfect all houses from which a consumptive has been removed. It seems little less than murder, in the light of recent investigations into the matter, to knowingly allow a family to move into a house in which there has been a consumptive patient, without first thoroughly disinfecting the house. The Board of Health here has the appliances for thorough disinfection, and this part of the program of war against consumption could be inaugurated at once.

In this land of sunshine, where it is possible to live an outdoor life the year around, and where, in fact, to a large degree the out of door life is lived, consumption ought to be driven out. It can be, too, with an intelligent and sincere co-operation of public and health authorities.

The enemy that has to be combatted though is one that is responsible for ten out of sixty deaths in Honolulu during the month of December. Think of it! One-sixth of all the deaths in this city last month were from tuberculosis.

Forty-three marriages, forty-three births and sixty deaths is the record of vital statistics for Honolulu for the month of December which the Board of Health furnishes. Considering that the forty-three marriages affect eighty-six people, marriages are away ahead of deaths the race, but births are away behind.

The Department of Public Instruction must have employed H. C. Birbe by inadvertence or else it is starting a new course of theoretical and applied profanity.—Advertiser.

Isn't this perilously near libel? Birbe is almost the one man in this community who has a certificate, in the form of a jury verdict, that he is not a profane man. Can the editor of the Advertiser boast of such credentials?

The Anti-Saloon League could not have framed a severer indictment of the liquor traffic than this contained in the Kau Wine Company's protest to the Governor against the loss of its license. The Kau Wine Co., Ltd., is convinced that any effort to conduct the liquor business on a strictly moral basis is as futile and absurd as...

If unanimity is all that is required, we ought to get a new federal building right off, for there seems no sentiment against it here, and so far as known only Alexander Young and his attorney J. G. Pratt elsewhere.

Classified Ads in Star.

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A small fox terrier, white with black spots. Owner can have same by calling at City Market within 15 days and paying expenses.

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CHRISTMAS IN RUSSIA.

The cable dispatches speak of the celebration of Christmas in Russia as going on now. This is the Christmas season in that country, which has not adopted the Gregorian calendar, but still sticks to the Julian. Thus Russia is already twelve or thirteen days behind the Western Christian world in the time of its Christmas, new year and other festivals and days of the month, and is getting farther behind all the time. The Julian calendar fails to take note of errors which the Gregorian corrects. The original reason why Russia did not accept the Gregorian calendar was that Pope Gregory was at the head of the western church, while Russia upheld the Eastern or Greek form of Christianity, and hence looked on Gregory and the western church as schismatics and heretics. Probably bigotry and conservatism have kept her from getting into step with the rest of the world and adopting it since.

The Gregorian calendar, known as New Style was adopted in Great Britain and America in the eighteenth century. Thus in original records George Washington's birthday is given as February 11, while now it is February 22. Washington was born before the change from old style to new. When the change was made the difference between the two calendars was eleven days, which accounts for the change from February 11 to February 22. Since then the differences between the two calendars has been growing until now it is more than an even twelve days.

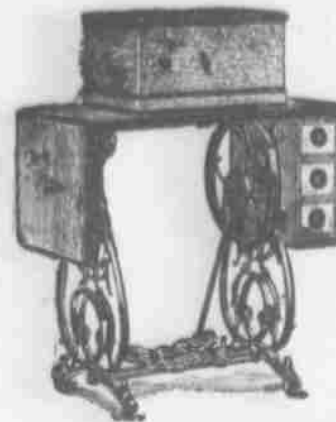
TOPICS IN BRIEF.

The shipping on Salt River is a little crowded these days, but the weather is good and the pilots all amiable.—Mr. Bryan's Commoner.

The new Jap loan is a complete success. Almost any loan is regarded as a complete success by the fellow who gets it.—The Atlanta Journal.

In order to comply with the fitness of things Boston should remove the sacred codfish from the Capitol and hang up a sole.—The Chicago Record-Herald.

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